

Wanderers visit Minehead

WYCOMBE Wanderers, who received a bye straight to the first round of this season's F.A. Cup because of their exceptional performances in recent years, have been given a tough visit to the strong Somerset side Minehead on Saturday, November 26.

Minehead are one of the fastest rising clubs in non-league football for last season they finished runners-up to Wimbledon in the Southern League Premier Division after only five years in the league.

In addition, Minehead caused one of the shocks of the F.A. Cup first round when they beat Swansea of the Football League Division Four 1-0 and only went out 2-1 to Portsmouth in the second round — the first time they

have ever reached that far.

The Minehead scorer on each occasion was striker Andy Leitch, who was one member of a three pronged attack with Derek Bryant and Jim Jenkins who scored 96 goals between them in all competitions last year.

Although with virtually the same side, Minehead have not fared as well this winter and stand in mid-table. The reason for their slump has been the lack of form by their strikers.

But they are showing signs of coming back to their best. Leitch scored the goal which earned them a 1-1 draw with

Salisbury in Saturday's fourth qualifying round match. More important, their former Newport goalkeeper John Macey saved a penalty to stop Salisbury going two up.

In last night's (Monday) replay Minehead won 2-1 in a thriller that went to extra time. Once again Salisbury took the lead but Leitch netted the equaliser and Jenkins scored a great winner in extra time.

RECREATION GROUND

Minehead, whose average gate is 500, play on a local recreation ground which is used

for cricket during the summer. Incredibly the football pitch and cricket square overlap without apparent ill-effect.

They are managed by long serving player Bob Boyd and include in their side Tony Clausen, the only local player who has played over 700 games for the club.

Wycombe manager John Reardon has a dossier on Minehead, gathered by his brother Terry who plays for Slough. Slough beat Minehead after three matches in last year's F.A. Trophy.

John Reardon's reaction to the draw was: "It could have been better, it could have been worse." He was relieved that the opposition was none of the top Isthmian sides. He mentioned Enfield and Leatherhead in particular.

WYCOMBE Wanderers open their Shaw and Kilburn Floodlit League programme tonight (Tuesday), when they travel to meet a rejuvenated Aylesbury United, who are on the crest of a wave at present.

Aylesbury have proved so successful this season that they are standing second in Division One (South) of the Southern League which they joined only last season, and are attracting four figure crowds — on par with Wycombe.

For the match, Wycombe

bring in the young Flackwell Heath defender Richard Strong while John Maskell returns in goal instead of Peter Spittle. Steve Vass is still out with blood clotting in the ankle while veteran Tony Horseman has a slight groin strain.

Although this league is being used to give squad members a run out there will be quite a lot of pride at stake between arguably the two best sides in the county.

The blackout in electricity supplies has forced Dagenham to bring forward

the kick off time for Wycombe's Isthmian Premier Division visit to Victoria Road on Saturday. Whatever the power situation, the match will kick off at 2.15 p.m.

However the blackout will not effect Wycombe Wanderers Youth's match away to Slough in the Berger Paints Isthmian Youth League on Wednesday night. A couple of wins could put Wycombe in with an excellent chance of making the top three and so qualifying for the quarter finals.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	18	14	3	1	38	11	45
Wycombe	21	14	2	5	38	21	44
Hitchin	20	12	3	5	36	22	39
Leatherhead	19	11	5	3	39	16	38
Tooting	20	11	4	5	28	20	37
Dagenham	22	11	3	8	42	34	36
Hendon	22	10	5	7	33	27	35
Staines	19	9	5	5	25	26	32
Hayes	17	8	5	4	21	15	29
Carshalton	18	8	4	6	31	25	28
Barking	18	8	2	8	31	25	26
Sutton	17	8	2	7	19	21	26
Boreham	15	7	3	5	28	21	24
W'hamstow	16	6	4	6	20	24	22
Croydon	17	6	2	9	22	29	20
K'stonian	20	4	4	12	18	30	16
Slough	16	4	3	9	22	31	15
Woking	18	4	1	13	22	42	13
Tilbury	17	2	6	9	21	33	12
Leytonstone	18	2	6	10	18	31	12
Southall	17	2	5	10	15	33	11
Stortford	21	1	5	15	20	51	8